

quently elected the present member, Col. J. C. Harper, of Lenoir, to fill the vacancy caused by said resignation.

At a meeting held in Raleigh, Nov. 4th, 1875, Mr. James Walker, of Wilmington, was elected Master Builder, at a salary of five dollars per day of actual service. Mr. Walker is a builder of thirty years experience, and has constructed some of the most important edifices in the State. He has proved himself eminently fitted for his work, having had daily and hourly personal management of the work, to entire satisfaction.

After due advertisement for proposals, a contract was made, at a meeting in Salisbury, Dec. 20th, 1875, with Messrs. Corpening, Dunovant & Co., for one hundred thousand feet of white oak lumber for joists for flooring. The same was duly delivered, properly piled and stacked, and is now seasoned ready for use at an early day.

At the earnest and repeated suggestions of the architect, the important subject of water supplies received early attention. It was urged that it is now usual to lay the pipes for water when foundations are laid, to save the large expense of handling the great amount of water needed for the mortar beds, and that the present favorable rates for iron, the principal item of cost, were then lower than ever known in the history of the country, and not likely to remain so depressed, while the winter season, when the farmers were not engaged in planting, afforded the best period to secure cheap hauling and ditching. Upon these considerations the Commission closed a contract, after receiving various bids, with the Tredegar Works of Richmond, Va., for the delivery at Morganton without freight charges, of four and three-quarter miles of six inch iron pipe, at two and one-eighth cents per pound, a rate that is believed to be unparalleled for cheapness of price. Each length was carefully tested and accompanied by the certificates of an experienced Civil Engineer of Richmond, as to strength and quality.

Dr. Nereus Mendenhall was appointed a special Com-